Nuclear arms-control agreement between the US and the USSR

1739. SHRI MURLIDHAR CHANDRAKANT BHANDARE:

SHRI MAHENDRA PRASAD:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian ambassador to UN Mr. C. R. Gharekhan had expressed concern over some of the nuclear arms control agreements between the Soviet Union and the USA which while calling for comprehensive test ban, provided for further improvement of nuclear weapons; and

(b) if so, in what precise context the statement was made and in what precise terms India's concern was expressed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI HARI KISHORE SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A statement was made in New York on June 4, 1990 by Shri C. R. Gharekhan, as the Head of Indian delegation for the Meeting of the States Parties to the Treaty Banning Nuclear Weapon Tests in the Atmosphere, in Outer Space and under Water (otherwise known as Partial Test Ban Treaty) for the Organisation of the Amendment Conference. While setting out India's views on the objective of the Amendment Conference Shri Gharekhan emphasised the key importance of a Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty in preventing the upgrading of the existing nuclear weapons systems. He stated, inter alia, "Many nuclear arms control agreements are being negotiated between USA and USSR. This is welcome development. However, none of these agreements prohibit the upgrading of the existing weapon systems, and some even specify the permitted areas for further improvements of weapons, with the exception of the INF Treaty. We hope that in the specific area of nuclear testing, the Depositary States of the PTBT will reaffirm their earlier commitment to achieve the objective of banning all nuclear weapon tests.

Revelation of the Defence Analyast on Pakistan Nuclear options

1740. SHRI MURLIDHAR CHANDRAKANT BHANDARE:

SHRI MAHENDRA PRASAD:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention had been drawn to the revelations made by the Defence Analyst. Mr. K. Subramanyan as reported in the "Hindustan Times" of 31st May, 1990, to the effect that Pakistan was making all arrangements to keep its nuclear weapons ready for use and first-tune its arsanel;

(b) whether the report of the Analyst has since been confirmed; and

(c) if so, what is Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI HARI KISHORE SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Government do not have concrete evidence to substantiate the assertions made in the report.

Organisation of Islamic Conference at Cairo on Kashmir

1741. SHRI MURLIDHAR CHANDRAKANT BHANDARE:

SHRI MAHENDRA PRASAD:

SHRI SURESH PACHOURI:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Pakistan Government have been relentlessly striving for getting the Organisation of Islamic